

## The Gospel of Mark: The NeverEnding Story ELCA YOUTH GATHERING 2015

Welcome! You are entering an experience in Mark's fast-paced Gospel. Please explore this fantastic story, stop at some stations along the way, and if you can find Mark, ask the Gospel writer a question.

To help you get the most out of this experience in Mark's story, you are encouraged to follow it from start to finish. **Pictures** and important **quotes** will guide you. But there is much more to look for:

**1** To help you understand the original setting of Mark's story, a number of **historical FACTOIDS** <★> are provided. These give important clues about the people and culture in the time of Jesus.

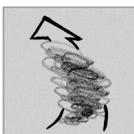
**2** Mark's story is a carefully written drama that drives us as readers to understand who Jesus is and the meaning of what he does. Mark uses several kinds of **literary clues** along the way. Watch for the following repeated themes:



This happens twice in the story.  
What's the connection?



Mark's Gospel story is like an action movie. Things happen fast. Many times in the Gospel, the Greek word euthus pops up. It means "immediately!" Why the need for speed?



At several points in the story, Jesus faces demons and casts them out.

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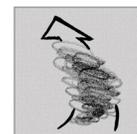
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A number of times in the story, Jesus tells his disciples, the crowd, or even people he has helped not tell anyone what he has done or who he really is. What's with that?



At several points in the story Jesus crosses some kind of boundary. To cross a boundary is to shatter divisions, to include outsiders, and to see the world a different way. What kind of boundaries does Jesus cross?



At key points in the story Jesus tells his disciples about what is going to happen to him when he gets to Jerusalem. This is important foreshadowing, because what happens in Jerusalem is the key to understanding the meaning of the story.

**3** To help you think about what the story means to you, take time to reflect on the **QUESTIONS** that appear. How does the story connect with your life and your faith?

**4** Keep an eye out for **STATIONS** along the way. Don't be afraid to stop or take a detour to experience what is there. At one station you'll find out why Mark's Gospel is called the "never-ending" story.

**5** Mark, the Gospel writer, is roaming around the story. Find Mark and ask a question. Author's love to talk about their work!

Special thanks to artist Janelle Thompson (amadcatstudio@me.com)



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